

Stellar Communities Designation Program



The Stellar Communities Designation Program is a multi-agency partnership designed to recognize Indiana's smaller communities that have identified comprehensive community and economic development projects and activities as well as next steps and key partnerships. Through annual designation the Stellar Partners work to provide state resources to stimulate local economic activity and to promote sustainability throughout Indiana.

Stellar Communities is also a planning program that provides clear direction and action steps for communities with or without Stellar designation. Each of the selected finalists will receive funding for a strategic investment plan (SIP) and a three to five year vision of specific projects designed to meet the unique needs of the community. Communities not selected as finalists benefit by increased collaboration between stakeholders that may lead to future projects independent of the program

Stellar Partners

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Indiana Arts Commission
- Indiana Bond Bank
- Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)
- Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA)
- Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD)
- Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)
- Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE)
- Serve Indiana

Best Practices

- Proven prior implementation of planning efforts
- Effective and engaged leadership
- Recognizing the value of the planning process
- Effective description of target area
- Alternative plans to move forward if not designated
- Engaged community and public partnership



Eligible Participants and Requirements

- Eligible participants include all non-Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Communities.
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) communities will not be required to have a commitment for transportation funding from INDOT or their MPO to submit an LOI since the community may have other sources to address transportation issues they have identified. Communities submitting LOIs must include transportation issues and define the method of addressing them.
- Interested communities need to have a recent comprehensive development plan and must have documents demonstrating a capacity to complete proposed projects.
- Applicants must submit: Letter of Interest (LOI), information sheet, project matrix, resolution passing comp plan, authorization to submit and a site map denoting the location of potential projects. The LOI must be signed by the Chief Elected Official. Materials can be obtained online at www.in.gov/ocra/stellar

Contact the Stellar Communities Designation Program team at stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov

Last updated 2.25.16